



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING MORE THAN 100 KILOS OF MARIJUANA IN LAWRENCE COUNTY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two men have been sentenced in federal court for participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana in Lawrence County, Mo.

Jerry Lee Kohl, 50, of Alpena, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to one year and six months in federal prison without parole. Co-defendant **Donald A. Patrick**, 55, of Mechanicsburg, Ill., was sentenced on Jan. 4, 2006, to five years in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 29, 2005, **Kohl** and **Patrick** both pleaded guilty to the charges contained in a March 24, 2005, federal indictment.

Kohl and **Patrick** admitted that they transported loads of marijuana from Texas to several locations, including Louisville, Ken., Chicago, Ill., and Fort Wayne, Ind., from July 2004 to March 23, 2005. On each trip, Graves said, **Patrick** made the arrangements and hired **Kohl**, paying him \$5,000 per trip to drive the loads of marijuana.

Patrick and **Kohl** were arrested on March 23, 2005, when the vehicle **Kohl** was driving was stopped for a state commercial motor vehicle compliance check. **Kohl** was traveling eastbound on I-44 in Lawrence County, pulling a horse trailer. During a subsequent search of the trailer, officers located a false compartment that contained more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. **Patrick** was traveling with **Kohl**, but in a separate vehicle.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow